Washington, **DC** - Rep. Bruce Braley (D-lowa) released the following statement in response to President Obama's address on healthcare before a joint session of Congress tonight:

"President Obama is right: it's time for action on meaningful healthcare reform. And meaningful healthcare reform means doing everything possible to reduce healthcare costs, make health insurance more affordable, and expand access to quality health insurance. I was glad to hear the President express support for the public health insurance option, but a public option must be included in a reform plan to make it as effective as possible at reducing skyrocketing costs. The bottom line is that we need healthcare reform, because we just can't afford the cost of inaction," said Rep. Bruce Braley.